

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-15 remain in this application. Claims 1-5 were previously cancelled and claims 6-10 have been cancelled via the present amendment.

In the Office Action dated October 28, 2003, the Examiner rejected, in particular, independent claim 6 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Abbasi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,665). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not specifically addressed in his rejection arguments how and where the Abbasi reference teaches or suggests a method which provides for telecommunications connections to be handed off from uncoordinated, unlicensed system operation of the telecommunications system to coordinated, licensed system operation of the telecommunications system, and vice versa. In contrast to the teachings of Abbasi, the present invention need not have prior knowledge about the conditions in adjacent cells, with the initial monitoring being carried out only once by the base stations arranged in the adjacent cells; i.e., when the respective appliance is first turned on, and then perhaps once again only at a relatively long time interval. Conversely, the operation of the base stations disclosed in Abbasi are dependent in part upon the respective data base in its memory regarding the identity of such neighboring base stations and their associated signal strength. That is, the signal strength of the control signals is used to determine the neighbor list and the signals listed are placed in order in relation to decreasing signal strength above a specific threshold level. Once the initial list of neighboring stations is established in a memory of the base station, such base station begins to call the neighboring stations over the network and requests the called station to place the calling station on its respective neighbor list.

Nowhere, however, it is taught or suggested in the Abbasi reference for a base station to assess the information content and reception quality of messages received from adjacent base stations and to thereafter prepare and transmit a list of parameters associated thereto to those mobile devices which are located in the base station's respective cell on a further Broadcast Control Channel.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 of the present application, as well as claims 12-15 which respectfully depend therefrom, are both novel

and non-obvious over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's §102(a) rejection of the claims and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is further submitted that a three month extension of time of \$950.00 is due in connection with this Response. However, if any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112740-450) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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